

NORTH CAROLINA SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE 2009 FACT SHEET

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature recommends that the General Assembly increase funding for home and community based services for older adults by increasing the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) by \$5 million.

The N.C. General Assembly established the Home and Community Care Block Grant in 1992. The Block Grant consolidated several funding sources and represented an important step toward establishing a well-coordinated service delivery system to meet the needs of older adults. The HCCBG makes funds available for an array of home and community based services which assist frail older adults to remain in their homes. Individual counties determine the services to be offered and select the agencies to provide these services.

Eighteen services can be funded through the Block Grant and they include: adult day/day health care, care management, home delivered meals, home health, housing and home improvement, information and assistance, in-home aide services, respite care, senior companion and transportation.

For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2007-08, the typical profile of older adults receiving services funded through the HCCBG was as follows:

- Female - 71%
- Average age – 77 years
- Living alone - 48%
- Unable to manage their own care - 66%
- Income at or below poverty - 44% of all clients
- Services relieved a caregiver over 20% of the time

Information about numbers of person served and waiting list information for several of the key home and community based services funded is as follows:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Persons Served in 2008</u>	<u>Waiting List 2008</u>
Adult Day/Day Health Care	1,163	115
Home Delivered Meals	18,669	1,576
In-Home Aide Services	8,607	3,117
Transportation	13,908	200

As of October 21, 2008, there were 5,581 individuals on the waiting list for HCCBG services. The waiting list is continuously updated. A total of 62,495 persons were served during SFY 07-08. The Division projects that 62,000 persons will be served during SFY 08-09, a decrease of 495 persons. SFY 08-09 funding for the Block Grant is \$59,850,958. Of this amount, 53% (\$31,883,119) is state funding and 10% (\$5,985,096) is required local match. The remaining funding of \$21,982,743 (37%) is federal funding. The Division of Aging and Adult Services estimates a \$5 million increase would result in approximately 3,000 additional persons receiving services (5% increase) over SFY

08-09 client service projections. The increase in projected persons is based on past client increases with additional state appropriations.

Special Issues

- In-home aide services represent 32% of Block Grant expenditures. These services enable older persons to stay at home longer and are in great demand. One of the reasons the service has not grown is due to a shortage of in-home aides. Typically, this occupation is underpaid and has minimal benefits. In order to provide in-home aide services, priority needs to be given to strengthening and stabilizing this field of work.
- There are currently 99 adult day care/day health centers located in 55 North Carolina counties. There were 125 centers in 68 counties in 2000. Due to the lack of funding, North Carolina has seen a drop in the number of centers. Although, the General Assembly appropriated funds for a \$5.00 per day rate increase for adult day care and adult day health care in 2004 and 2006, the current daily rates for adult day care and day health are only \$33.07 and \$40.00, respectively. Additional funding for the Block Grant is needed to support adult day care and day health care centers.
- The need for home delivered meals continues to grow. In addition, ninety percent of these clients are at risk of malnutrition. Additional funding is needed to provide weekend, emergency, and supplemental meals.
- Information and Assistance (I&A) helps people access home and community based services. There is a growing need for individuals and their families to receive counseling to cope with the problems of aging and caregiving. Current funding supports 49 local I&A programs. Additional funding is needed to encourage the development of I&A programs in other counties and to improve services in existing counties.